Cross-Reference to Related Applications

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/018,603, filed February 4, 1998, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No., 08/843,741, filed April 21, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,913,873, the entire disclosure of each of these applications being incorporated herein by reference.

In the Claims

Please cancel claim 1.

Please add and consider new claims 22-45:

22.   A method for reducing exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage in a horse, said method comprising a step of applying a force to a first and second lateral vestibular wall overlying a first and second nasal passage of a horse, said applied force being directed away from said first and second nasal passages.

23.   A method according to claim 22 wherein said force is applied to a portion of said first and second vestibular walls, each vestibular wall defined rostrally by a nostril, dorsally by a nasal bone, ventrally by an incisive bone and caudally by an intersection of said incisive bone and said nasal bone.

24.   A method according to claim 22 wherein said force is applied by a nasal support device.

25.   A method according to claim 24 wherein said nasal support device includes an engaging layer.

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26. A method according to claim 25 wherein said engaging layer includes an adhesive.

27. A method according to claim 26 wherein said nasal support device further comprises a support layer.

28. A method according to claim 27 wherein said support layer comprises at least one lift member.

29. A method according to claim 27 wherein said support layer comprises three or more lift members.

30. A method according to claim 22 wherein said force is applied by a nasal support device comprising:

—   a support layer to support a portion of said first and second lateral vestibular wall;

the support device configured to include:

—   a first side piece for engaging said first lateral vestibular wall, said first side piece having a first rostral end, a first caudal end and a first rostral–poll dimension; and

—   a second side piece for engaging said second lateral vestibular wall, said second side piece having a second rostral end, a second caudal end and a second rostral– poll dimension.

31.   A method according to claim 30 wherein said nasal support device further comprises a midline region including an intersection of said first and second side pieces, said midline region having a midline rostral end, a midline caudal end and a midline region rostral–poll dimension that is at least as great as a selected one of said first and second rostral–poll dimensions.

32.   A method according to claim 31 wherein said nasal support device further comprises an engaging layer having an adhesive for securing said nasal support device to said first and second lateral vestibular wall of said horse.

33.   A method according to claim 31 wherein said midline region rostral–poll dimension is greater than said selected one of said first and second rostral–poll dimensions.

34.   A method according to claim 32 wherein said nasal support device includes at least two lift members.

35.   A method for facilitating air flow in a horse afflicted with a respiratory condition, said method comprising a step of:

        –   adhering a support device to skin of a first and second lateral vestibular wall overlying a first and second nasal passage of said horse, said support device supporting said skin and associated soft tissues of said first and second nasal passages.

36.   A method according to claim 35 wherein said respiratory condition is exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage.

37.   A method according to claim 35 wherein said respiratory condition is dorsal displacement of a soft palate.

38.   A method according to claim 35 wherein said respiratory condition is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

39.   A method according to claim 35 wherein the respiratory condition is an upper respiratory condition.

40.   A method for reducing respiratory airflow impedance in an animal, said method comprising a step of:

        —   adhering a support device to a first and second lateral vestibular wall overlying a first and second nasal passage of said animal.

41.   A method according to claim 40 wherein said reduction in respiratory airflow impedance is a reduction in inspiratory airflow impedance.

42.   A method according to claim 41 wherein said reduction in inspiratory airflow impedance is at least about 5–10%.

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43.   A method according to claim 42 wherein said reduction in inspiratory airflow impedance is at least about 15–25%.

44.   A method according to claim 40 wherein said support device is a nasal support device comprising:

    –   a support layer to support a portion of said first and second lateral vestibular wall;

said support device configured to include:

    –   a first side piece for engaging said first lateral vestibular wall, said first side piece having a first rostral end, a first caudal end and a first rostral–poll dimension; and

    –   a second side piece for engaging said second lateral vestibular wall, said second side piece having a second rostral end, a second caudal end and a second rostral– poll dimension; and

    –   a midline region including an inner section of said first and second side pieces, said midline region having a midline rostral end, a midline caudal end and a midline region rostral–poll dimension that is at least as great as a selected one of said first and second rostral–poll dimensions.

45.   A method according to claim 43 wherein said support layer includes at least two lift members.